

WASHINGTON STATE FIRE DEFENSE COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES

September 18, 2007 10:00am

REGULAR MEETING

A regular meeting of the Washington State Fire Defense Committee was held on Tuesday September 18, 2007 at 10:00 AM at the Fire Training Center in Kennewick.

Present at the meeting were:

Central Region:	Tedd Hendershot
Lower Columbia Region	
Mid Columbia Region	
Northeast Region	Bill Walkup, Bruce Holloway
Northwest Region	
Olympic Region	
South Puget Sound Region	Dan Smith
Southeast Region	Grant Baynes, Bob Gear
Southwest Region	Tom McDowell, Dave LaFave
WSP Fire Protection Bureau	Dan Johnson, Mike Matlick, Paul Perz
DNR	Mark Kahley
EMD	
FPPB	Mark Kahley

Guests:

Chair Bill Walkup called the meeting to order at 10:05. Mark Kahley requested an addition to the agenda to talk about dispatch and status of fire service resources. The agenda as amended was approved

MINUTES

- The minutes of the June meeting were approved as submitted upon a motion by LaFave and a second by Baynes.

REPORTS

- **Fire Protection Bureau (Mike Matlick / Dan Johnson)**

Mike reported that they were going to the legislature on the issue of no-mans-land. The Governor's direction is protection of wildland and structures. The WSP is looking at an expanded focus towards education about annexation into fire districts, formation of districts or how to protect ones own property when the other options are not viable.

Mike said they were approached by Mike Brown with a proposed reimbursement for services in the unprotected land which would be ten times the rate in the State Fire Chief's rate schedule. Bruce Holloway and Grant Baynes both stressed that this would require a legislative change to give fire districts the authority to do this.

Dave LaFave said that the State Chiefs Board has met also on this issue.

Mike advised that the mobilization plan is currently with Antonio (WSPs liaison with the Governor's office) for review before final signature by the Chief.

Mike informed the committee that mobilization is one/half million over budget and they will be going to the legislature for a supplemental appropriation.

Dan Johnson passed out summary activity sheets of fire mobilization over the past 7 years. He discussed some issues with the Wright fire concerning the management organization and if it should have been mobilized at all.

Dan distributed a sample questionnaire that is being proposed to be sent out rather than the after action survey used in previous years. This can be filled out easily on an on-line program and should produce better and more complete responses. It was suggested that a survey also be sent to participating agencies to ascertain their perspective on the process as it relates to mobilizations this year.

- **Emergency Management (Ron Wilson)**

Ron was unable to attend the meeting due to the WSEMA conference in Spokane.

Department of Natural Resources

Mark reported that this fire season has been fairly quiet for DNR – the number of fires being slightly below the number of fires for the 10 year average.

Mark told the committee that the Forest Service seems to be interested in entering into a contract with the DNR to status fire service resources similar to what they do with ODF. Under this arrangement the DNR would enter fire service resources into ROSS. Mark thought that this would require a staff of two people and the Forest Service would pay the costs.

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There was committee discussion as to how this would work, specifically how status would occur.

Mark requested an idea of how many resources would be statused in the position of resource boss or above. They could be statused as unavailable, available locally or available nationally. The information should be sent to Albert Kassel.

- **Fire Protection Policy Board (Matlick)**

The Policy Board met last month and completed the Fire Prevention Plan and it is now out for review.

- **Geographic Board (Walkup)**

They have not officially met but there have been some conference calls regarding team deployment and extensions.

- **PNWCG**

LaFave informed the Committee that there have been a lot of I-300 and I-400 courses conducted. He cautioned the committee to be aware that the PNWCG does not accept this training unless it has been sanctioned by the PNWCG. It may not count for wildland qualifications unless it is so approved.

- **All Risk Legislation Changes**

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Mike Matlick reported that he has talked to Antonio in the Governor's office regarding the status of this issue. Antonio reported that it is not high on the list and no action has taken place as yet. However, Mike assured us that the proposed solution is going to be submitted by the staff in the Governor's office.

Mike said that the solution to this issue is what we needed. Vetting it through legislation and the Governor's office clears up the question as to the all-risk component and the guarantee of supplemental appropriations.

A discussion between Mike and the Board regarding the process that brought us to the solution was agreed as not being acceptable. We all agreed to be

more collaborative and desired to work closely together for mutual agreed results.

- **Hasty Mobe**

Grant corrected the issue to be “Immediate Need Mobilization” and stated that the matter is being worked on. It is being added to the work plan to carry this forward.

Bob Gear reported on a CD that was produced as training for this mobilization. Copies may be obtained through Grant or Bob.

ACTIVE ISSUES

- **Evaluation and Review of Appeal – City of Bellevue Fire Dept.**

A request was made for review of the denial of a claim from the Easy Street Fire. Bellevue submitted the claim for payment of wages for a driver for the Battalion Chief who was dispatched as a strike team leader. Bellevue’s contract requires a driver for BC’s. Discussion ensued.

A motion was made by Holloway to allow the claim of \$870 and it was seconded by Hendershott. The motion failed on a 3 to 3 vote.

- **All Risk IMT work effort – Type 3 teams**

McDowell passed out material on the All-Hazard IMT’s for review to begin discussion and work at the next meeting.

Upon a motion by LaFave and a second by Baynes the draft material was accepted

NEW ISSUES AND OTHER BUSINESS

- Walkup reminded the committee that next month is the meeting for nominations for officers for 2008. Bill indicated his strong desire to have someone else serve next year.

- Discussion was held on a change for the date of meeting. No decision was made.

The next meeting will be held on October 16th – scheduled but not confirmed to be at Ft. Lewis.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

Tom McDowell – 9-18-07

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